

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3
INCIDENT NO. 2003-028
DATE: April 10, 2003 Time: 7:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Fire Season** – Typical pre green-up conditions exist to provide concern about rural fires.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: At the McLean Bottoms fire, one fire fighter was transported to the hospital due to smoke inhalation and several fire fighters have suffered blisters on their feet due to walking on hot embers.
3. DAMAGES: On April 9, a campfire reportedly ignited a blaze on Game Management land one to two miles south of the Glencoe Church in the McLean Bottoms along the Missouri River in north Emmons County. The wild land fire is estimated to have consumed more than 3,000 acres. It is exhibiting between four and six foot flames. Six residences were threatened; to protect them, fire fighters burned areas between the houses and the fire. To date, the fire is reported to be 75 percent contained. One hundred percent containment is projected for 6:00 p.m. on March 11.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: (In addition to previous reports) The Emmons County Road Department responded.
STATE: (No change from previous reports)
FEDERAL: (In addition to previous reports) Agencies represented are the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Aviation Administration.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: (In addition to previous reports) American Red Cross officials have made evening food and lodging arrangements for 12 fire fighters. Both the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross are continuing to provide beverages and sandwiches for on-scene responders.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Very early on March 10, a N.D. Forest Service representative arrived on scene to assist in establishing an on-scene unified command system.
On March 10, the incident commander requested continued use of N.D. National Guard (NDNG) personnel and helicopters to assist fire fighting efforts.
On March 10, the NDNG deployed two helicopters, along with necessary air and ground personnel, to dump water on the strategic areas of the fire.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has staged a 6,000 gallon and a 2,000 gallon water tender if needed as a resource to fight the blaze. In addition, personnel in each NDDOT district throughout the state have been placed on alert to provide response capability.

A 1,000 gallon water tender was provided on scene by the Riverdale District of the State Game and Fish.

The N.D. Forest Service supplied an engine and crew from Bottineau, ND.

An order was placed with the North Dakota Interagency Dispatch Center, in the city of Upham, for an Incident Commander Type 3 and a Task Force Leader. Two individuals from the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Unit of the U.S. Forest Service filled each position. Two engines and crew from federal agencies were also requested. These resources were supplied from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Turtle Mountain Agency and from the J. Clark Saylor National Wildlife Refuge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands Unit of the U.S. Forest Service provided two engines and crew.

Federal Aviation Administration officials in Bismarck, ND issued a temporary flight restriction over the fire area to all incoming and outgoing flights.

National Weather Service personnel issued a forecast for Thursday and Friday indicating lower temperatures, higher humidity, and lighter winds will combine to lessen the fire danger. Saturday and Sunday, the forecast called for temperatures 70 degrees accompanied by light winds, cloudy skies, and a potential for showers.

Morning and late afternoon briefings were conducted in the State emergency Operations Center. Participants from the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the N.D. Game and Fish, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, the N.D. Forest Service, the N.D. Department of Transportation, the N.D. National Guard, Burleigh County Emergency Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the On-Scene Unified Command discussed planning and response issues.

The Emmons County Road Department officials provided a bulldozer to establish a fire break.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director